

Message Text

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TAGS: EAID, EEC, LT (CHEYSSON, CLAUDE)
SUBJECT: VISIT OF CLAUDE CHEYSSON, COMMISSIONER FOR DEVELOPMENT,
EEC

1. COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON SPENT TWO DAYS IN LESOTHO (MARCH 16 AND 17). THE COMMISSIONER WAS GIVEN RED CARPET TREATMENT FROM HIS ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT TO DEPARTURE. IN ADDITION TO MEETINGS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AND APPROPRIATE CABINET MEMBERS, MR. CHEYSSON WAS GIVEN A RECEPTION BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT HIS RESIDENCE AND ADDRESSED A FULL SESSION OF THE PARLIAMENT OF LESOTHO. HE WAS TO HAVE TAKEN AN AIR TOUR OF THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF LESOTHO OVER THE QUTHING AND QACHA'S NEK ROAD THAT EEC IS HELPING TO REPAIR AND REBUILD BUT THIS WAS CANCELLED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER.

2. MR. CHEYSSON'S SPEECH IN PARLIAMENT WAS WARM, FRATERNAL AND FULL OF EXPRESSIONS OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE ACP COUNTRIES BUT CONTAINED LITTLE THAT WAS NEW. CHEYSSON WAS INTRODUCED AS THE MAN WHO SILENCED A EUROPEAN MP WHO WAS DENIGRATING LESOTHO'S CASE ON THE TRANSKEI BORDER CLOSURE. HE OPENED HIS ADDRESS WITH A FAIRLY DETAILED AND LENGTHY EXPLANATION OF THE EEC (WHAT IS IT?): QUOTE WE ARE BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF NATIONS BUT IT IS NOT OUR INTENTION
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TO MERGE INTO A NEW NATION UNQUOTE.

3. CHEYSSON ALSO DESCRIBED THE ECONOMICS, ORGANIZATION AND POLICIES OF THE EEC. HE SAID THE LOME CONVENTION IS BASED ON FOUR PRINCIPLES: ACCESS TO THE EUROPEAN MARKET (THE LARGEST IN THE WORLD) TOGETHER WITH COOPERATION ON COMMODITY PRICE STABIL-

ZATION, NON-IMPOSITION OF EEC VIEWS ON ACP COUNTRIES, MUTUAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN EEC/ACP WHICH CONFERRED NON-NEGOTIABLE "RIGHTS" ON ACP MEMBERS, AND AN AGREEMENT ("NEUTRAL BY NATURE") WHICH CAN SERVE LDC'S AND DC'S EQUITABLY. HE ALSO REFERRED TO THE SIMILAR AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED BY EEC WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES, EMPHASIZING THAT THE ARABS HAD SOUGHT AND WON INDEFINITE DURATION INSTEAD OF A FIVE YEAR TERM FOR THE AGREEMENT. HE SUGGESTED THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER THIS PROVISION WHEN NEGOTIATING A NEW CONVENTION AFTER THE EXPIRATION OF LOME. IN DISCUSSING THE EEC AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL HE REFERRED TO THAT COUNTRY AS A COUNTRY WHICH HAS THE RIGHT TO EXIST AND TO MAINTAIN ITS INTEGRITY.

A. CHEYSSON REFERRED TO 22.7 MILLION (UNITS OF ACCOUNT) PLEDGED TO LESOTHO'S DEVELOPMENT AND REFERRED TO THE EEC COMMITMENT TO WORK ON THE MAFETENG - MOHALE'S HOEK - QUTHING -QACHA'S NEK ROAD. HE SAID QUOTE WE ALSO SUPPORT BUILDING A NEW INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT UNQUOTE FOR LESOTHO AND STATED HIS CONVICTION IT WILL BE BUILT.

B. CHEYSSON SAID LOME CONVENTION MEANS MORE DIRECT COMPETITION FOR EUROPEAN INDUSTRY BUT THAT GROWTH OF TRADE BETWEEN DEVELOPING AND INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES WILL REBOUND TO EUROPE'S BENEFIT IN HELPING HER TO RESHAPE HER INDUSTRY FOR THE FUTURE. BUT DIRECT IMPACT OF LOME MEANS THAT PEOPLE MUST BE INVOLVED AND INFORMED. PARTICULARLY PEOPLE IN EUROPE MUST BE MADE TO REALIZE THAT PROBLEMS OF DEVELOPING WORLD ARE AKIN TO THE PROBLEMS OF EUROPE. IN CLOSING HE TURNED TO THE THREAT TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTH AFRICA WHICH HE SAID IS OF THE SAME NATURE AS THOSE FORCES WHICH BROUGHT ABOUT WW II.

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3. AT THE PM'S RECEPTION CHEYSSON SPOKE FORCEFULLY OF THE RIGHT-EOUSNESS OF LESOTHO'S CAUSE VIS-A-VIS THE TRANSKEI ISSUE AND THE DETERMINATION OF EEC TO HELP LESOTHO TO REDUCE ITS DEPENDENCE ON S.A. HE SAID HIS VISIT HERE WAS CONCERNED IN PARTICULAR WITH THE FUNCTIONING OF THE LOME CONVENTION AND PROMOTING (HENCE DIVERSIFYING) LESOTHO'S TRADE WITH THE EUROPEAN MARKET.

4. COMMENT: MR. CHEYSSON IS OBVIOUSLY VERY HIGHLY REGARDED IN LESOTHO. EEC IS ENJOYING THE SPOT LIGHT AT THE PRESENT IN TERMS OF ITS RESPONSE TO LESOTHO'S EMERGENCY REQUEST, HAVING RECEIVED CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY ON ITS COMMITMENT TO WORK ON A PRIORITY ROAD AND TO THE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PROJECT. STOKES

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